

WHAT WE CLAIM IS

1. A clamping apparatus for clamping work pieces, the apparatus comprising:

a box-shaped casing having a longitudinal axis;

5 a clamping member, movably supported by the box-shaped casing;

said clamping member being operatively connected to a control actuator by a thrust member to be moved between a first and a second position; and

10 a detector device for detecting the clamping member in its operative positions, said detector device comprising at least a first detecting sensor, and

sensor actuating means connected to the movable thrust member, wherein

15 the sensor actuating means comprises a plurality of spaced apart and side by side arranged indexing members, said indexing members being longitudinally aligned on a side of the thrust member facing said sensor of the detector device.

20 2. A clamping apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sensor actuating means consists of a comb-shaped element.

3. A clamping apparatus according to claim 2, comprising:

25 a first sensor having an activating element at a

first distance from the longitudinal axis of the thrust member;

a second sensor having an activating element at a second distance from the longitudinal axis of the 5 thrust member, said second distance differing from the distance of the previous sensor; and

at least one of the teeth of the comb shaped element extending for a greater length compared to the other teeth.

10 4. A clamping apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the tooth of greater length is disposed centrally to the remaining teeth.

5. A clamping apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sensor is adjustably secured to a support 15 element in the longitudinal direction of the thrust member of the clamping device.